

# News from Faslane 365

**Mary Millington makes a proposal for another Wales blockade at Faslane Trident nuclear submarine base, Emily Freeman calls for young people to join a 3-day Academy at Faslane, and the Faslane 365 steering group invites you to a Big Blockade.**



*Mary Millington blockades at Faslane*

I am a Southwalian woman who was arrested during the Dragon Days at Faslane last November as part of the Faslane 365 action, as I know were many others from North and South Wales.

This May (Mon 22 - Fri 25) I visited Faslane again, with an eye to joining whatever groups were taking action at that time, but there were none until the weekend. Wales had said we'd go again in April, but Faslane is so far away, and we put so much into our first effort, that it seems that was not to be.

In the end, I did a one-woman blockade of North Gate on 23 May, supported and photographed by Angie. I was charged, held overnight and then given the letter of 'reprieve', as happened to our blockaders last November.

Angie Zelter has given me some possible dates for a 'hidden' blockade (i.e. one not recorded on the website), in the second half of August. If any readers of WPJN are interested in discussing possible dates and arrangements, please ring me on 01633 265244 and we can set up a preparatory meeting.

Hope to hear from some of you!

Organisers are asking participants to bring along dolls, teddy-bears etc. for the teddy blockade at the Academy. If you cannot get to Faslane yourself, you can also send a teddy or doll to be there representing you and the future generations at the actions! Send to: Teddy, c/o A-L Rundberg, 2 Rosedale Gardens, Helensburgh, G84 7RW, Scotland.

BANg is also holding a young people's postcard competition, to design a postcard with the phrase 'voices from a nuclear (free?) future' in mind. The winning postcard designs will be printed and distributed in New York and Europe as part of Hiroshima and Nagasaki day commemoration events. Winners will receive an MP3 player as a prize. See [www.bang-europe.org](http://www.bang-europe.org) for more information and design ideas.

## Celebrate and Resist!

On 1st October 2007, after a year of nonviolent blockading, Faslane 365 is celebrating the diversity and impact of this civil resistance against the UK's illegal weapons of mass destruction. Groups and individuals, who in various ingenious ways have disrupted the nuclear business-as-usual at Faslane, are coming together for a celebration, a carnival of resistance. Come and celebrate creativity and hope with us. As the Faslane 365 year draws to a close we will also be looking forward to renewed resistance and our shared vision of a nuclear-free world. Accommodation and training will be available in Glasgow the evening before.

Coaches will be leaving Edinburgh at 4:30 am and Glasgow at 5:30 am on 1st October. Please book early. For more info and a briefing pack contact: [info@faslane365.org](mailto:info@faslane365.org) or call: **0845 458 8365**.

As always donations are welcome and needed. Please send cheques to: **Faslane 365**, Valley Farmhouse, East Runton, Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9PN.

## BANg Faslane Youth Action Academy

### Calling All Young People...

BANg (BAN ALL NUKES generation) is a European Youth Network connecting young people from about a dozen countries who are active for nuclear disarmament. Founded in 2005, this year it organises its first Youth Action Academy from 26 - 30 July at Faslane, Scotland.

The Academy will include workshops, action training, creative action (involving a teddy blockade to

represent future generations, rebel clowning, a 'die-in' and more to be planned at the camp), meetings with experts and Hibakusha - survivors of the Hiroshima & Nagasaki bombings.

The Academy is free and there is some funding available to help with travel costs for the first 20 applicants.

To register or find out more, go to: [www.bang-europe.org](http://www.bang-europe.org) or contact Emily Freeman at [emfreeman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emfreeman@hotmail.co.uk) **07828 658 628**

# Wrexham Women for Peace

by Genny Bove

**Report from the first action by a new group of peace campaigners in Wrexham**



Wrexham Women for Peace was formed a couple of months ago. For our first action, we wanted to do something to make people aware of the new group and remind them, and ourselves, of the human cost of war. We decided to do this by holding a vigil and funeral procession in town, in memory of those whose lives have been lost in conflict worldwide.

As well as commemorating lives lost, we were calling for an end to conflict - for investment to be diverted away from the arms trade that supports worldwide conflicts and into measures to improve health and welfare and reduce poverty. Just one tenth of global spending on the military would provide the basics of life for everyone - food, clothing, clean water, sanitation, literacy and a minimum income.

This was an action that needed quite a lot of preparation - evenings at home crafting paper flowers with peace messages on the leaves as well as a Mayday bank holiday workshop to make the banner, the coffins and headscarves, which was a good way for members of the new group to get to know each other a bit better. I think the effort was worthwhile - we certainly made a big visual impact on the day.

At 11am on Saturday 19 May, about a dozen women, accompanied by several children and babies, began by holding a silent 15-minute vigil at the War Memorial. It was encouraging that we were joined by women who had read about the action in the newspaper only the previous evening and had felt strongly enough to come along. After the vigil, we picked up the coffins, flag, placard and flowers, and walked in slow procession to the army

recruitment office, where we laid a wreath on the steps and observed a further minute's silence.

We then continued through the pedestrianised part of town (down Regent Street and Hope Street, around Queens Square and down Lambpit Street) to the Peace Garden on Holt Street. As our sombre procession parted the hordes of Saturday shoppers, we gave out our paper flowers. Dressing up is absolutely not my thing, so I felt very self-conscious parading through the middle of Wrexham in my outfit, especially as I had the job of handing out the flowers to passers-by.



The procession ended at Wrexham's sadly under-used Peace Garden, where we held a peace picnic for men, women and children. Yummy vegan food was provided by Wrexham Veggies and others. Big thanks to everyone who helped with the picnic. We have talked about the possibility of organising a regular picnic on this site, a place and time for people to get together and share food and ideas.

After the action, members of Wrexham Women for Peace commented on the day:

*"Our slow procession gave me time to remember the many parents who*

*have had to join funeral processions for their innocent children killed in wars and conflicts all over the world. It is difficult to get your head around the amount of senseless deaths and wasted lives, so we often push it to the back of our minds. It is important sometimes to take time out of our busy lives to get in touch with the magnitude and obscenity of it all."*



*Above and above left: The procession through town. Left: banner on the Peace Garden railings advertises our picnic*

*"As we stood in silent reflection at the war memorial, I thought about all those who have died as a result of British and US intervention abroad, particularly in Iraq. Most of the victims were just ordinary men, women and children. I feel responsible for not having done more to stop the government perpetrating this bloodshed. At the army recruitment office, I thought about the soldiers dying in Afghanistan and Iraq, and about those who return from war injured and traumatised. These young people should be our future. Instead we are sending them to their deaths or condemning them to a lifetime of mental distress."*

*"If we have diverted people's attention away from shopping onto more pressing concerns for even a few minutes, then this action will have been worthwhile."*

**To find out more about Wrexham Women for Peace, call: 0845 330 4505 or email: [wrexhamwomen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wrexhamwomen@yahoo.co.uk).**